

**Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Governing Board Members**

President - Jennifer DeVore
Vice President - John Gresham
Secretary - Erika Stuart
Treasurer - Patricia Carroll
Asst. Secretary - Dave Cavalier

Area 1 - Brookside: Tony Gittelson
Area 2 - Citrus Square: Erika Stuart
Area 3 - Country Club Heights: *Vacant*
Area 4 - Fremont Place: Julia Dalton
Area 5 - Hancock Park: Jennifer DeVore
Area 6 - La Brea-Hancock: Sixto Sicilia
Area 7 - Larchmont Village: Natalie Irby
Area 8 - Melrose: Richard Gano
Area 9 - Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews:
Rochelle Lewis
Area 10 - Ridgewood-Wilton/St. Andrews Square:
Patricia Carroll
Area 11 - Sycamore Square: Conrad Starr
Area 12 - Western-Wilton: MJ Anderson
Area 13 - Wilshire Park: John Gresham
Area 14 - Windsor Square: Gary Gilbert
Area 15 - Windsor Village: Drew Kiesow
At Large: Mark Alpers
Renter: Dave Cavalier
Business: Romi Cortier
Education: Scott Appel
Religion: Charles D'Atri
Other Nonprofit: Brian Curran

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



**GREATER WILSHIRE
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**Environmental & Sustainability
SPECIAL Meeting Agenda**
Thursday, October 16, 2025 6:30p.m.
Via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/873422707>
61
Or by Toll Free Phone (888) 475 4499
Webinar ID: 928 2781 1179
www.greaterwilshire.org/SCdocs/

GWNC Sustainability Committee:

Chair - Polly Estabrook (Area 14)
Secretary - MJ Anderson (Area 12)
Julie Dalton (Area 4)
Julie Kim (Area 15)
Andy Galan (Area 12)
Anders Waalen (Area 5)
Multiple Vacancies

Direct Committee Inquiries to:

(323) 539-GWNC (4962)
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info@greaterwilshire.org

일시 광역주민의회
환경 & 지속가능성 위원회
정기회의 의제

*Concejo Vecinal de Greater
Wilshire - Comité de medio
ambiente y sostenibilidad -
Agenda de reunión ordinaria*

Pursuant to the October 6, 2023 enactment of California Senate Bill 411 (Portantino) and LA City Council approval on November 1, 2023, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted virtually.

The Neighborhood Council system enables civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an elected advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, made up of volunteer stakeholders who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities and bringing government closer to us.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

A. Call to Order (Polly Estabrook) – Meeting convened at 6:33 PM

B. Roll Call (MJ Anderson) - Done by P. Estabrook:

- i. Committee Members present: Polly Estabrook (Chair), Julie Kim, Andy Galan, Anders Waalan.
- ii. Absent: MJ Andersen and Julie Dalton.
- iii. Quorum was achieved with 4 of the 6 committee members present.
- iv. Other GWNC/Stakeholders: Jennifer DeVore, John Gresham, Patricia (“Patty”) Lombard, Tony Gittelson, Gary Gilbert, Dave L. (stakeholder).
- v. Guests/Speakers: Dr. Beate Ritz (UCLA); Daniel Enzler, General Manager, Wilshire Country Club (WCC)
- vi. Housekeeping: Per GWNC practice, only committee members should be panelists; observers remain attendees. Several demotions were made accordingly.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. **Stakeholder Committee Member Required Training:** All Committee members have completed required training. Any new non-GWNC Board members on the ESC would need to complete the following training:

i. Code of Conduct – available at <https://greaterwilshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2023-1-Code-of-Conduct-Form.pdf>, send signed copy to secretary@greaterwilshire.org.

i. Ethics – Ethics Training Link: <https://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/>
All required trainings completed, including Anders Waalen (previously outstanding).

B. **Approval of Minutes from prior meetings:**

i. Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - 8/7/2025 **Approved** (Anders Waalen, Andy Galan, Polly Estabrook – YES; Kim Abstained as she was not present at that meeting).

ii. Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/3/2025 **Approved unanimously** (Waaen, Andy Galan, Julie Kim, Polly Estabrook – YES).

IV. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Submission of letters to CD5 and CD 13 City Councilmembers requesting that the use of non-essential pesticides be limited and other topics.

BACKGROUND: Several GWNC residents have contacted GWNC regarding new reports linking pesticides to Parkinson’s and other diseases. GWNC ESC held a community forum for discussion of this issue with the Wilshire Country Club, UCLA subject matter experts and community members on 10/16/25 at which we decided to draft letters to CD 5 and CD 13 city councilmembers. We would like to discuss the letter, modify if needed, and pass the letters to the GWNC Board for their approval at the Board meeting on Wed 10/12.

OBJECTIVE for this meeting: Jennifer DeVore outlined Neighborhood Councils’ role as **community forums** (no legislative power; may submit **Community Impact Statements** only on active Council files). Tonight’s forum responds to **community interest** about **pesticides and health** (no current Council file).

PRESENTATION – Dr. Beate Ritz went first due to a hard stop at 7:30 PM.

Topic 1. Presentation — Pesticides & Parkinson’s Disease (Dr. Beate Ritz, UCLA)

Disclosures: Expert testimony for **paraquat** (PD litigation) and **glyphosate** (NHL litigation). Research funding from NIH, Michael J. Fox Foundation, others.

Highlights

- **Use & exposure trends:**

- Long-term increase in U.S. pesticide production/use. Household **organophosphates** declined after early 2000s restrictions; **neonicotinoid** biomarkers detected in ~**50%** of U.S. population (2015–16 NHANES).

- **Atmospheric transport:** Recent work shows pesticides detectable in **rainwater**; likely **volatilize** and re-deposit far from application sites.
- **Neurotoxicity & epidemiology:**
 - Many pesticides target insect **nervous systems**; human brain is a plausible off-target.
 - Multiple worldwide studies associate pesticide exposure with **elevated Parkinson’s disease (PD) risk**(roughly ~40% ↑ for herbicides; ~70% ↑ for insecticides).
- **California PUR “bystander” exposure method:**
 - **CA Pesticide Use Reporting** (since 1974) logs **active ingredients, timing, pounds applied** per 1-sq-mile section.
 - UCLA geocoded **lifelong home/work addresses** for ~1,000 **PD cases** and ~1,000 **controls** in Kern/Fresno/Tulare; calculated exposures within **500 m–1 km** buffers across decades.
 - EPA school-roof monitors corroborate air concentrations tracking PUR application timing.
 - Repeated finding: **elevated PD risk** with residential/workplace **bystander exposures**, even without personal use.
- **Agents of concern / mixtures:**
 - **Paraquat** (MPP+ analogue) tied to consistent PD risk across windows/locations (2009; expanded **2024**study). Usage **not banned** in U.S.; increasing amid glyphosate resistance.
 - **Rotenone** (plant-derived, “organic”) is also a **dopaminergic neurotoxin** (animal PD model).
 - **Trifluralin** flagged by exposomics and Agricultural Health Study; mixture (“**cotton cluster**”) effects observed; PD patient-derived neurons show toxicity.
 - **Well water** near multiple water-soluble applications associated with ~70% ↑ PD risk when ≥10 such agents applied nearby.
- **Policy/monitoring gap:**
 - Unlike pharmaceuticals, **no robust post-market human health surveillance** exists for pesticides; calls for **post-approval monitoring**.
 - Regulatory adoption has been **limited**; MJFF is lobbying to **ban paraquat**.

Q&A (select)

- **Latency & duration:** PD pathology likely develops over decades; symptoms emerge after **60–80%** dopaminergic neuron loss; **cumulative exposure** matters.
- **Volatilization:** Not merely “drift on spray day”; chemicals can **gas off later** and move with air masses.
- **Urban greens:** From a health standpoint, recommend **avoiding pesticides near people**; be cautious with “organic” products and **metal-containing** formulations (e.g., **copper**); industrial **solvents/mineral oils** also raise concerns.
- **Trends:** Anecdotal sense of **younger-onset PD**; CA PD registry (since 2017) still maturing; higher exposures noted among <60 and **Hispanic** cases (likely occupational).

Action: Dr. Ritz will **share slides**; meeting recording **may be posted** to the GWNC website (speakers consented during meeting).

Departure: Dr. Ritz left near **7:30 p.m.**

Topic 2. Presentation — Wilshire Country Club (WCC) Renovation & Practices (Daniel Enzler, GM)

- **Compliance:** Vendors and applicators operate under **county/state/city regulations**; **certified sprayer** required; **inventory registered with LAFD**.
- **Inputs:** Majority use is **fertilizers (nitrogen/potassium)** and **wetting agents**; applications “**only as needed**.”
- **Turf & drainage:** New California sod; **aeration + sand** improve rooting/drainage; performance handled recent storms well.
- **Native/low-water landscape:** ~**20 acres** of natives with **drip irrigation** (property ~**100 acres** total, ~50 north / ~50 south of Beverly). Tree palette includes **oaks** and **sycamores**.
- **Water stewardship:** Prior recognition for **water sustainability**; monitoring **UC Riverside** turf research; new **hybrid Bermuda** for lower irrigation needs.
- **Application method:** **Computerized sprayer** capable of applying wetting agents, fertilizers, and (when needed) pesticides. **No fixed schedule**; **spot/area-specific**.
- **Construction period question:** In response to member observation of “pesticide applicator vehicles” during construction, GM **did not comment on contents** (sprayer is multi-use).
- **Native areas:** Stated **pesticides are not sprayed** on native plantings.
- **Wildlife:** Seasonal **barranca** (≈1.8 miles) supports **frogs/toads, crayfish, herons, egrets, owls, red-tailed hawks, bluebirds, rabbits, squirrels, coyotes**; activity dipped during construction and has **rebounded**.

Thanks offered and speaker departed.

Topic 3. Committee Discussion & Public Input

- **Regulatory context:**
 - Longstanding knowledge of paraquat hazards (since the **1980s**); **bans** exist in many countries.
 - Examples cited: **Paris** pesticide restrictions; **Malibu** toxic pesticide ban (2019); **Montgomery County, MD**(2017) cosmetic-use ban; other international limits.
 - Concern that CA DPR has **not** acted on certain hazards; difficult to fault local users when **law** allows use.
- **Education & behavior change:**
 - Strong interest in **resident education**: risks from “**organic**”/essential-oil pesticides (e.g., neem/rosemary), effects on **pollinators** (e.g., neonicotinoids), and **IPM** alternatives.
 - **Larchmont Buzz** willing to cover; Anders to assist on **scientific accuracy**.
 - Slides/recording to be **shared with attendees** (emails collected from those who volunteered).

Topic 4. Motion & Vote

- **Motion (Estabrook):** The Environment & Sustainability Committee will **draft a letter on pesticides and human-health implications** for the **GWNC Board** to send to **CD5 and CD13** (city council offices).
Second: Anders Waalen.

- **Vote (roll-call): Julie Kim – Yes; Andy G. – Yes; Anders Waalen – Yes; Chair Estabrook – Yes.**
- **Outcome: PASSED unanimously.**
- **Target: Prepare before the GWNC Board meeting on November 12, 2025.**

V. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action) - **NONE of the agenda items below were covered in this meeting due to lack of time.**

- Discussion of Public Bank LA and submission of CIS to [Council File 19-1235-S1](#) and also to [Council File 25-0600-S16](#), a secondary file focused on discretionary funds to support the feasibility study. Background for this topic can be found at ncsa.la/public_bank_la_10-12_2025.
Possible CIS: The GWNC ESC supports the creation of a Public Bank in LA . (Sentence can be amplified on in meeting and rationale given.)
- Discussion on submission of a CIS in response to Dodger Stadium Gondola. Councilmembers **Hernandez** and **Jurado**, seconded by **Soto-Martínez**, have introduced a [resolution](#) (in [Council File 25-1295](#)) to oppose the gondola and urge Metro to do the same.
Possible CIS: The GWNC ESC opposes the creation of a gondola to access Dodger Stadium as currently planned and urges Metro to oppose as well. (Sentence can be amplified on in meeting and rationale given.)
- The [City of Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee](#) is conducting a 10–to–15-minute survey to better understand the needs and priorities of **bicyclists** across the City of Los Angeles. You can take the survey in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#).
- Discussion of the Scattergood Green Hydrogen-Ready Modernization Project in front of LA City Council.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

- Report on any other sustainability or environmental issues not on the agenda.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Regular Committee meeting date: Thursday, December 4, 2025, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92827811179>
Note: regular meetings are held on even-numbered months, alternating between Zoom and in-person.

VIII. REQUESTS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Discuss priorities and ideas for programs in 2025 - 2026.
- Transit Day update** (train opening reportedly delayed again) — requested originally by **MJ**.
- Artificial turf (“synthetic turf”)** policy & health/environmental impacts; prior GWNC CIS effort referenced; City discussions may be reviving.
- Note: In **Hancock Park HPOZ**, artificial turf is treated as **hardscape** and **not permitted**; Windsor Square HPOZ likely similar (enforcement/process varies).
- LA Sanitation “LA Sort”** recycling app — consider **GWNC promotion** and possible **Buzz** mention.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 8:09 PM with thanks to speakers and attendees

X. ACTION ITEMS (owner and due date)

- A. **Draft letter to CD5/CD13** reflecting forum takeaways (PD links, volatilization/transport, bystander exposure, monitoring gap; request exploration of local restrictions/moratoria, IPM expansion, product transparency, posting protocols).
• **Owner:** Chair Estabrook with Anders/Committee • **Due:** Nov 7 (for Board packet).
- B. **Post recording** (pending speaker confirmation) and **upload slide deck** from Dr. Ritz to GWNC site; share with attendees who provided emails.
• **Owner:** DeVore/Chair • **Due:** upon receipt.
- C. **Resident education one-pager** (plain-language: risks incl. “organic,” pollinators, safer landscaping/IPM, native plants; link to LA County/CA DPR resources).
• **Owner:** Committee (lead: Anders + Patty L. for Buzz cross-post) • **Draft by:** next meeting.
- D. **WCC follow-ups (optional):** Invite a brief **written overview** of WCC practices (IPM thresholds, confirmation of **no-spray native areas**, categories of inputs) suitable for public posting.
• **Owner:** Chair • **Timing:** before Dec meeting.
- E. **Agenda build:** Transit Day; Artificial Turf; LA Sort promo; minutes/letter approvals.
• **Owner:** Chair/MJ • **Timing:** standard cycle.

XI. Appendix – Attendance (as heard / visible)

- A. Committee: Polly Estabrook (Chair), Anders Waalen, Julie Kim, Andy Galan
- B. Also: Jennifer DeVore, John Gresham, Patricia “Patty” Lombard, Tony Gittelson, Gary Gilbert, Dave L., Alan Holowitz (with Anders).
- C. Guests: **Dr. Beate Ritz (UCLA), Daniel Enzler (WCC GM).**
- D. (Additional attendees present; some provided contact info to receive slides.)

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING INSTRUCTIONS / PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – Every person wishing to address the Board/Committee should dial (669) 900-6833 or (877) 853-5257 and enter 873 4227 0761, then press # to join the meeting.

The GWNC shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate any member of the public that requests an accommodation to participate in the meeting, by providing a publicly accessible physical location for the member of the public to participate from, providing access to technology necessary to participate in the meeting, or identifying locations or resources available that could provide the member of the public with an opportunity to participate in the meeting.

To address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes action on that item, the public is requested, when prompted by the chairperson, to dial *9 (if connecting by phone) or press the “raise hand” button (if using the Zoom app). Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda but which are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. The Board is prevented from acting on a matter brought to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, it may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the chairperson.

Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting. Only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, or if members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council’s control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

SB 411 Updates: In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1. (C) The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comments in real time. (D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the eligible legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate. (E) (i) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed. (ii) An eligible legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public Comment. (iii) An eligible legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

TRANSLATION SERVICE – If you need translation service, please contact the GWNC Secretary at (323) 539-4962 or info@greaterwilshire.org at least 72 hours before the event.

번역 서비스 – 번역 서비스를 요청하려면 행사 개최 72시간 이전까지 주민의회에 알려주시기 바랍니다. 이사회 사무국 연락처 (323) 539-4962 또는 info@greaterwilshire.org 에 접속하시기 바랍니다.

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN – Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al concejo vecinal 72 horas antes del evento. Por favor contacte al secretario de la mesa, al (323) 539-4962 o info@greaterwilshire.org.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future meeting.

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- **Our website**
- **Display case at the Wilshire Ebell Theater**
- **Via e-mail** - subscribe at www.greaterwilshire.org
- **By subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at / L.A.** <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/neighborhood-councils>

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PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website at

<http://www.greaterwilshire.org> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact info@greaterwilshire.org or (323) 539-4962.

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS – For information on the GWNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the GWNC Bylaws. The bylaws are available at our Board meetings and on our website at <http://www.greaterwilshire.org>.

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.